

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 657

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Donna Joy Vance for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as exemplary individuals for all to respect and admire; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy young lady is Donna Joy Vance of Rogersville, Tennessee, who, though born with very serious and significant physical ailments and conditions, has achieved and triumphed over adversity; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Lori and Mark Vance, Donna Joy Vance was diagnosed in the womb with multiple brain anomalies and at four months was diagnosed with the fatal brain disorder Holoprosencephally; nearly all children with this illness die before they reach the age of two; and

WHEREAS, against the medical advice of her physicians, Mrs. Vance carried Donna Joy to full-term, providing around-the-clock care by feeding her new baby girl with a syringe one drop at a time to sustain her life for almost a year; and

WHEREAS, now fifteen years of age, Donna is an eighth grader at Rogersville Middle School, where she enjoys studying Math and Art, works part-time in the school lunch room, and assists her peers in her classroom when they need help; and

WHEREAS, active in Boys and Girls Club programs, Donna Joy is also a member of the Rogersville Middle School Special Olympics Track team, for which team she captured the silver medal for running 100 meters in 20 seconds; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of East Rogersville Missionary Baptist Church, she is a member of the Drama Team and the Choir as well as Girls in Action, a community missions group that participates in Bible Drills and short-term community outreach projects; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her school and church, Donna Joy Vance enjoys cooking, sports, modeling, and performing; her goals are to become a television actress and model, become a chef, and travel with her parents, sharing her testimony with others; and

WHEREAS, although she suffers from cerebral palsy, peripheral blindness, and epilepsy, Donna Joy Vance lives life with courage and conviction and epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Miss Vance for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Donna Joy Vance for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.